

be independent or distinct from Groups II through V, Applicants reserve the ability to traverse other aspects of the restriction requirement at a later date.

In addition to the restriction requirement, the Examiner has asserted that within Groups III and V, independent species are subsumed by the relevant claims. Since Applicants are not electing either of these groups, no species election is necessary at this time. Should Applicants pursue prosecution of these groups, the election of species will be addressed in due course.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have elected to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, as defined in the January 29, 2004 Office Action. Claims 1-12 are believed to read on the elected subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 23, 2004  
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